



Unmasking Depression

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Good morning. Here are today's top stories.

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in affiliation with

BulletinHealthcare

Leading the News

Study: More kids going to ED for suicidal thoughts, suicide attempts

CNN (4/8, Bracho-Sanchez) reports, "The number of children and teens in the United States who visited emergency" departments (EDs) "for suicidal thoughts and suicide attempts doubled between 2007 and 2015, according to a new analysis" of "publicly available data from the **National Hospital Ambulatory Medical Care Survey**, administered by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention every year."

HealthDay (4/8, Reinberg) reports, "Among children aged five to 18, suicidal thoughts and attempts led to more than 1.1 million" visits to the emergency department (ED) "in 2015 – up from about 580,000 in 2007," investigators concluded after analyzing "data from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention." The **findings** were published online April 8 in a research letter in *JAMA Pediatrics*.

From the **AMA** 



Suicide and Medical Settings

- 1 out of 2 people who died by suicide had contact with a primary care provider in the month before the suicide
- 1 out of 5 people who died by suicide were seen by a mental health provider in the month before the suicide
- 1 out of 10 people who died by suicide visited an ER in the 2 months before the suicide

Mental and Behavioural Disorders Department of Mental
Health World Health Organization Geneva
2000

The Scope of the Problem

Depression

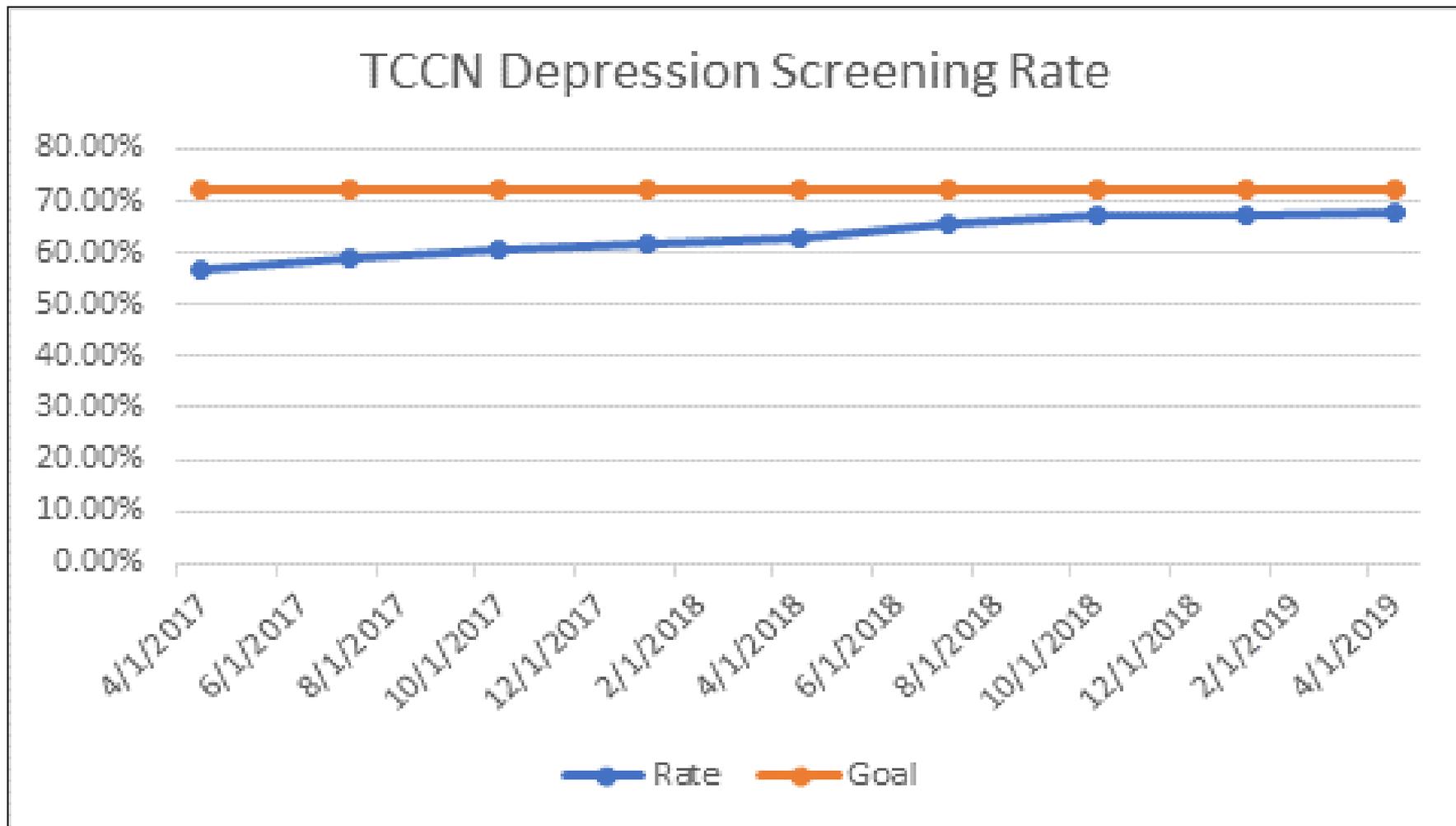
- 20% of youth, ages 13 to 18, live with a mental health condition
- Major risk factor for suicide
- Associated with
 - Social and educational impairment
 - Increase rates of smoking, substance abuse and obesity

The Scope of the Problem

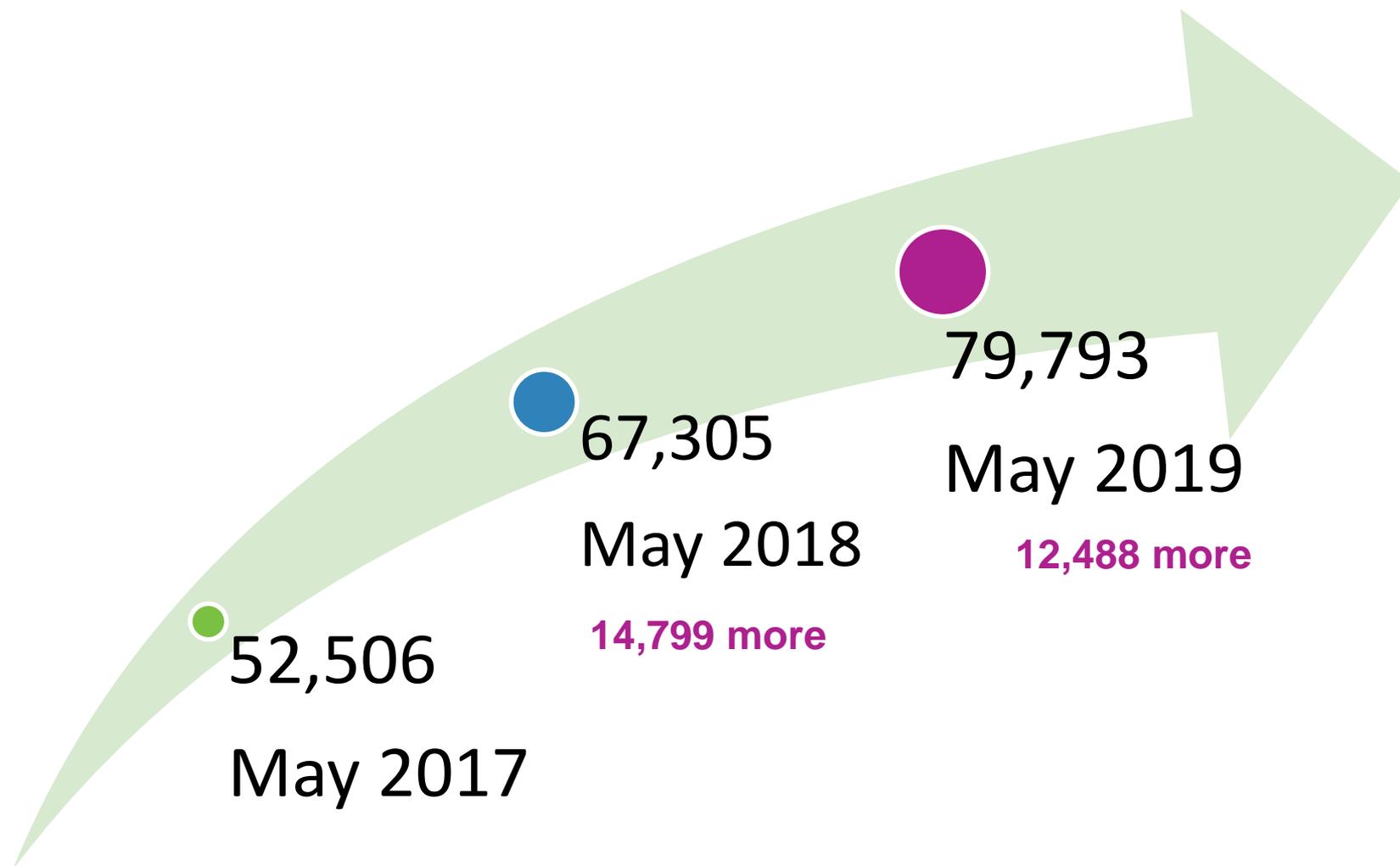
“Only 36% to 44% of children and adolescents with depression receive treatment, suggesting that the majority of depressed youth are undiagnosed and untreated”

Forman-Hoffman V, McClure E, McKeeman J, et al. Screening for Major Depressive Disorder in Children and Adolescents: A Systematic Review for the US Preventive Services Task Force. Evidence Synthesis No. 116. AHRQ Publication No. 13-05192-EF-1

TCCN Depression Screening Rates



Increasing the Number of Screens Each Year



Depression Screening Rates as of 4/28/19

Total number of eligible adolescents - **356,809**

Total number of adolescent well child visits - **156,495**

Total number of screenings at a well child visit - **90,709**



SMART Aim

- Our project SMART AIM

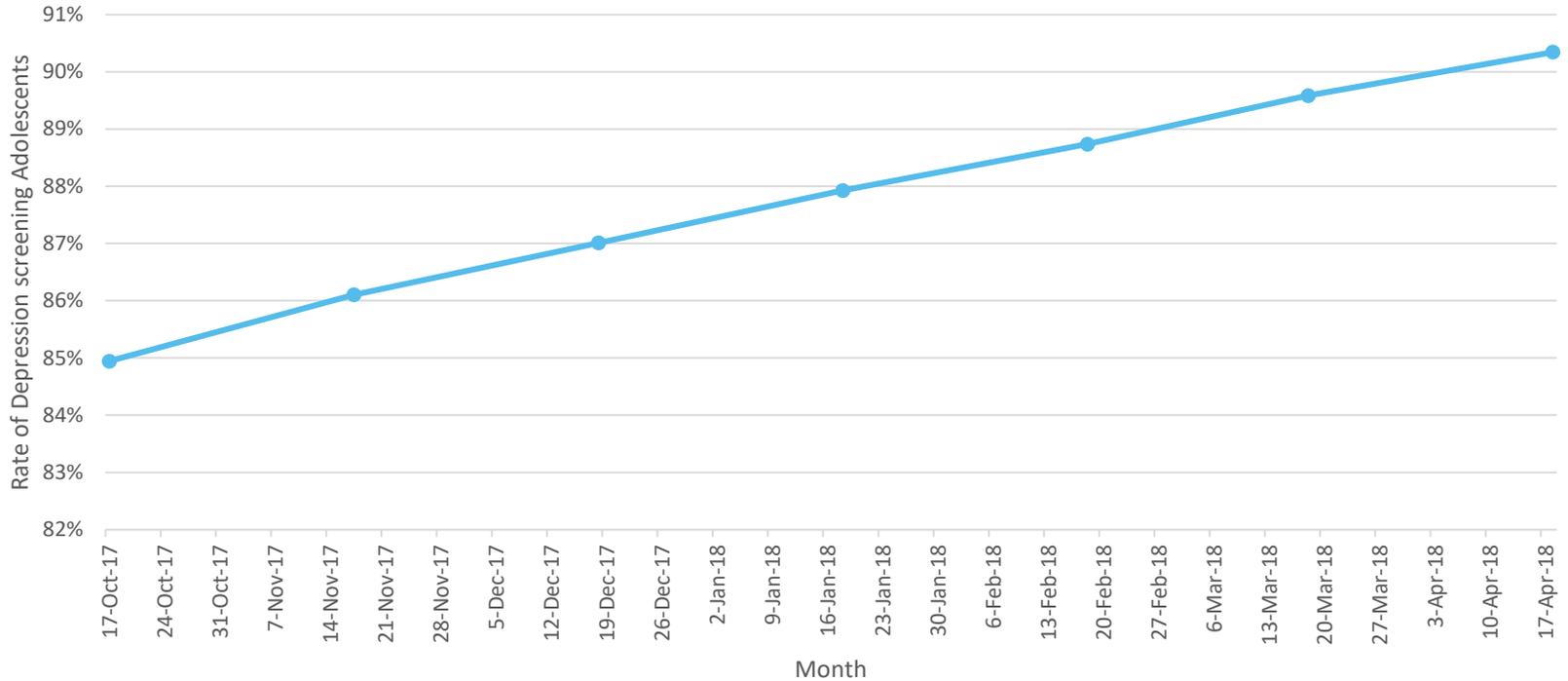
We will increase the rate of adolescent depression screenings by 5% at well encounters for established adolescents 12-18 y.o. by December 2019

What Are We Asking TCCN Practices To Do?

- If you are not actively screening for depression...
 - Adopt a screen, integrate it into your practice and code using 96127
 - Barriers and other concerns will be addressed in this presentation
- If you are actively screening for depression...
 - Utilize your adolescent list to pro-actively reach out to adolescents in need of services and schedule appointments
 - First adolescent recall list started going out on 3/25
 - Second recall list scheduled for 7/15
 - Use the opportunity to fill all adolescent care gaps

Entire Group Performance Over Project Course

MOC Group Depression Screening Run Charts



Interventions



- ▲ Echo session
- ▲ Webinar
- ▲ Screen initiation/coding
- ▲ Actionable list provision



What is Depression?

- Major Depressive Disorder:
 - Debilitating mental health condition that affects a child or teen's daily functioning
 - Impacts their involvement with family, friends, and school
 - Affects over 25% of high schoolers and up to 5% of all children and teens
- Depressed mood is not the same as a depressive episode
- Depressed mood is a symptom that can be expressed in a number of mental and physical illnesses

DSM V: Major Depressive Disorder

- Criteria A: 5 symptoms (SIGECAPS), during same 2 week period, representing a change from usual functioning. Symptom of depressed mood OR loss of interest/pleasure (anhedonia) has to be present
- Criteria B: the symptoms cause significant distress
- Criteria C: not due to a substance or a GMC
- Criteria D: not better explained by a primary psychotic disorder
- Criteria E: no history of mania or hypomania

Screening Tools for Depression

- Find what works for your clinic
- Want effective tools that guide towards diagnosis, can be monitored over time
- ECHO project – use of PHQ 2 and PHQ 9
- Need to be validated for reimbursement

PHQ2 – Initial Step

The Patient Health Questionnaire-2 (PHQ-2)

Patient Name _____ Date of Visit _____

Over the past 2 weeks, how often have you been bothered by any of the following problems?

	Not At all	Several Days	More Than Half the Days	Nearly Every Day
1. Little interest or pleasure in doing things	0	1	2	3
.....				
2. Feeling down, depressed or hopeless	0	1	2	3

PHQ-9

- More detailed review
- Each question addresses one of the core symptoms of depression



	(0) Not At All	(1) Several Days	(2) More Than Half the Days	(3) Nearly Every Day
1. Feeling down, depressed, irritable, or hopeless?				
2. Little interest or pleasure in doing things?				
3. Trouble falling asleep, staying asleep, or sleeping too much?				
4. Poor appetite, weight loss, or overeating?				
5. Feeling tired, or having little energy?				
6. Feeling bad about yourself – or feeling that you are a failure, or that you have let yourself or your family down?				
7. Trouble concentrating on things like school work, reading, or watching TV?				
8. Moving or speaking so slowly that other people could have noticed? Or the opposite – being so fidgety or restless that you were moving around a lot more than usual?				
9. Thoughts that you would be better off dead, or of hurting yourself in some way?				
In the past year have you felt depressed or sad most days, even if you felt okay sometimes? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No				
If you are experiencing any of the problems on this form, how difficult have these problems made it for you to do your work, take care of things at home or get along with other people? <input type="checkbox"/> Not difficult at all <input type="checkbox"/> Somewhat difficult <input type="checkbox"/> Very difficult <input type="checkbox"/> Extremely difficult				
Has there been a time in the past month when you have had serious thoughts about ending your life? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No				
Have you EVER , in your WHOLE LIFE , tried to kill yourself or made a suicide attempt? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No				



PHQ 9 Score Interpretation

SCORE	Interpretation	Interventions
5-9	Minimal to Mild Depressive Symptoms	Support Psychoeducation
10-14	Moderate Depressive Symptoms	Refer to Psychotherapy Consider Psychiatry Referral Consider SSRI
15-19	Moderately Severe Depressive Symptoms	Refer to Psychotherapy Refer to Psychiatry SSRI Recommended Establish Safety
>20	Severe Depressive Symptoms	Refer to Psychotherapy Refer to Psychiatry SSRI Strongly Recommended Safety Plan

Evidence Based Treatment Options

- Psychotherapy alone: Cognitive Behavioral Therapy or Interpersonal Psychotherapy
- Psychotherapy + medication: CBT or IPT + SSRI. Reduces risks of medications, higher rates of response to treatment over time
- Medication alone: SSRI (fluoxetine, escitalopram, sertraline***). Higher risk
- Supportive care: psychoeducation, serial monitoring of scores, etc. Only recommended for mild depression

Match the Treatment to the Individual

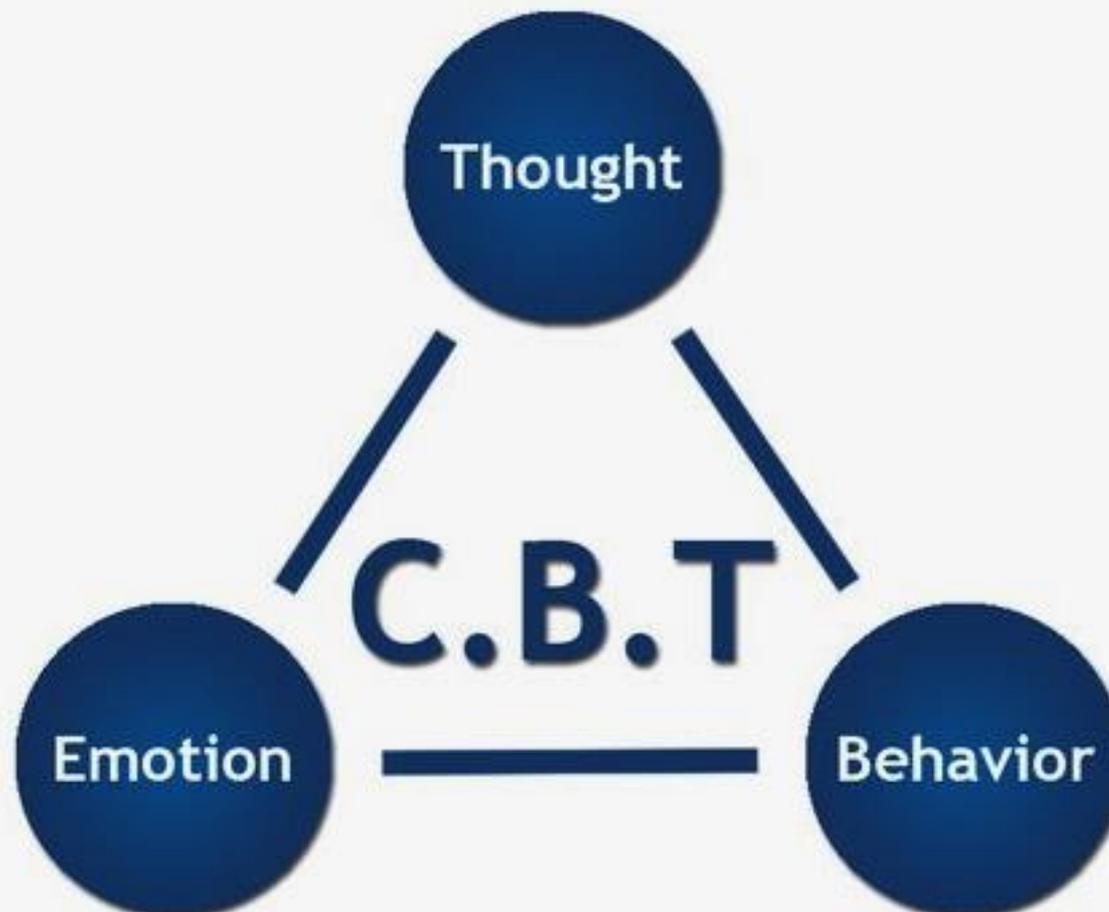
- There are no set in stone guidelines for when to use which treatments, but my approach is to start with psychotherapy, and to use the least amount and lowest doses of medications necessary
- Determine your own comfort level before stepping into the treatment discussion
- Availability of resources can change the treatment and many providers feel a pressure to prescribe when there are limited resources

Cognitive Behavioral Therapy

- CBT
- Centered on the theory of depression that depressed individuals have distorted thinking patterns and information processing that lays more importance on the negative, and underemphasizes the positive
- The goal of treatment is to interrupt the cycle of negative thinking, depressed mood, and maladaptive behaviors
- Key components: cognitive restructuring and behavioral activation
- Also works on skill building, problem solving, relaxation, emotional regulation, social skills training



What we *think* affects
how we act and feel.



What we *feel* affects
what we think and do.

What we *do* affects
how we think and feel.

Interpersonal Therapy

- IPT
- Conceptualizes depression as occurring within an interpersonal matrix, focuses on the impact of depressive symptoms on relationships
- Targets interpersonal stress: Loss; Role disputes; Role transitions; Interpersonal Skills Deficits
- Goal – replace conflict-ridden, unfulfilling relationships with meaningful, lower conflict ones

Selective Serotonin Reuptake Inhibitors (SSRI'S)

- Block presynaptic serotonin reuptake – decreases degradation of serotonin, and increases post-synaptic availability
- Can take 4-6 weeks to have their full effect – not rapid acting medications
- Very little cardio-toxicity in overdose (unlike older antidepressants)
- Need monitoring, especially when starting and stopping
- Consider prior medication trials when choosing an SSRI
- Discontinuation trial should be in low stress, 6 months-year after stabilized for depression
- FDA approved in children (varies per specific medication)

Medications:

1st Line – SSRIs

Positive Effects

- Relief of depressed mood
- Increased enjoyment
- Decrease in physical symptoms
- Decreased anxiety
- Feel more like their natural self
- Raises the floor – not a “happy pill”

Potential Side Effects

- Common: HA, nausea, weight gain, GI dysfunction, sexual dysfunction, changes in sleep
- Not as common: mania/hypomania, SSRI induced apathy, serotonin syndrome, vivid dreams, disinhibition, bruising, akathisia, bruxism
- Big, Scary Black Box Warning!

Black Box Warning

- Overall number needed to harm to see one patient with significant suicidal ideation due to medication (according to FDA definition): NNH= 125
- Overall number needed to treat to see one response for treatment of Depression: NNT = 10
- NNT for anxiety disorders = 4
- Unclear mechanism of action to explain this relationship between SSRI use and suicidality.
Possibilities: Rapid metabolism? Non compliance?
Mixed state? Disinhibition?

SSRI's

- **Fluoxetine/Prozac** – FDA approved for 8+ for MDD
- **Sertraline/Zoloft** – FDA approved for OCD ages 6+, but used often in children for depression
- **Escitalopram/Lexapro** – FDA approved 12+ for MDD, mixed evidence in studies. More potent serotenergic activity than celexa
- **Citalopram/Celexa** – Not FDA approved in children for MDD or anxiety, but FDA approved in adults. Some additional cardiac warnings. Studied in TORDIA
- **Paroxetine/Paxil** – no promising studies in kids

Fluoxetine – Prozac

- **FDA Approved for MDD ages 8 and older and OCD ages 7 and older**
- **Most clinical data**
- **First choice**
- SSRI with longest half life (4-6 days for the prodrug, 4-16 days for metabolite)
 - No discontinuation syndrome
 - Long wash out period
- Usually weight neutral and not sedating
- Starting dose 5-10 mg QD, usual dose 10-20mg po QD
- Recent Lancet article, August 2016

Escitalopram – Lexapro

- **FDA approved for MDD ages 12+**
- Usual starting dose 5-10 mg po QD, max dose 20 mg po QD.
- Not as activating as fluoxetine
- Not usually sedating or activating
- Usually given in AM

Sertraline – Zoloft

- **FDA approved for OCD in children ages 6+**
- Most serotonergic – potent, moderate-severe nausea
- In adults, MDD, social phobia, panic disorder, PTSD, PMDD in adults
- In studies using sertraline for depression, response (reduction of baseline symptoms ≥ 40 percent) occurred in more patients who received sertraline than placebo (69 versus 59 percent)
- Usually weight neutral and non sedating
- Take in the AM usually, can be activating
- Starting dose 12.5 mg vs 25 mg po QD, typical range 25-150 mg po qday

Suicidal Patients: Emergency Resources

- **GCAL- 1-800-715-4225**
- **Psychiatry Receiving Facilities:** able to provide emergency psychiatric evaluations and hospitalize patients if needed for stabilization. Can also assess for lower levels of care, such as Partial Hospitalization Programs (PHP) or Intensive Outpatient Programs (IOP). Able to do basic bloodwork and labs (ex those required for admission to a psych facility).
- **Medical Emergency Rooms:** limited psychiatric services available, but can evaluate immediate safety and/or need for 1013. Able to perform medical screens for pt's with concerns of physical causes of psych symptoms. Any pt with suspected ingestion should be referred to medical hospital ED for eval.

Some Nearby Psychiatric Hospitals...

- Ridgeview – Smyrna, Monroe
- Peachford – Dunwoody
- Summit Ridge – Lawrenceville
- Anchor – Southwest Atlanta
- Tanner/Willowbrooke – Cartersville
- Crescent Pines – Stockbridge
- Lakeview – Norcross
- Viewpoint – Lawrenceville
- Laurel Heights – Druid Hills (Atlanta), mostly Autism

Limitations and Difficulties in Screening

- Can be difficult to connect patients to mental health providers outside of Atlanta
- Coordinating care with multiple providers
- Limited follow through from patients and parents
- Limited resources available
- HIPPA concerns: link to information will be included in a post webinar resources document
- Billing: scenarios will be included in a post webinar resources document

Resources: For Patients and Families

- **GCAL 1-800-715-4225**
 - 24-hour phone line that offers crisis assistance and connection with services
 - Patients can call to talk to a crisis counselor, parents can call for list of low-cost providers
 - Most evaluations are conducted over the phone and patients are guided to the appropriate emergency resources
 - Can even send a crisis counselor to the home in certain situations for in-person assessment
- **www.georgiacollaborative.com**: List of low cost clinics and state funded providers
- **National Suicide Prevention Hotline 1-800-273-TALK**

Resources: For Providers

- **American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry:** www.aacap.org
- Program through **AACAP** for collaboration of care: <http://integratedcareforkids.org/>
- **NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness):** Georgia Behavioral Health Resource Pocket Guide for Assisting Children and Youth: www.namiga.org; 770-234-0855

Friends Physician Advice Line Expanded Coverage

- Call **404-785-DOCS** and ask for the Behavioral Advice Line
- **Monday-Friday from 12pm – 4pm**
- Be connected immediately to one of our psychiatry providers
 - If helping other clinicians, leave a voicemail and our provider will contact you same day or within 24 hours

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